

REMARKS

Claims 1, 24-29, 35, 36, 39-42, 44-51, 57, 58, 61-65, 70, 71, 73, and 85-88 are now pending in the Application. Claims 1, 24-29, 35, 36, 39-42, 44-51, 57, 58, 61-65, 70, 71, 73 are allowed. Claims 85-87 stand rejected and claim 88 is objected to in the Application.

In reply, Applicants have amended claim 85 to incorporate the subject matter of objected claim 88 and cancelled claim 88. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 24-29, 35, 36, 39-42, 44-51, 57, 58, 61-65, 70, 71, 73, and 85-87 remain pending in the Application.

Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 85-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103 as being anticipated and/or obvious over the Ihara reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,464,987) alone or in view of Yakobson et al (Fullerene Nanotubes: C_{1,000,000} and Beyond). Claim 88 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 88 into amended claim 85 and have cancelled claim 88. Rejected claims 86 and 87 depend from amended and allowable claim 85. As such, they are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 24-29, 35, 36, 39-42, 44-51, 57, 58, 61-65, 70, 71, 73, and 85-87 are in a state of allowability and respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicants believe that entry of the amendments is proper after a Final Rejection because the amendments cancel rejected claims and replace the remaining claims in condition for allowance. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully request an Advisory Action stating whether the amendments can be entered at this time.

Applicants believe they have made a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further favorable consideration is urgently solicited. If the Examiner believes personal communication will expedite consideration of this matter, he is invited to telephone the undersigned Applicants' representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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